National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi were Rs. 330 crore in 2003-04 and Rs. 490 crore in 2004-05. The gross collections in Post Offices in NCT, Delhi under PPF in 2005-06, upto the month of February, 2006 were Rs. 282 crore. The collections during the corresponding period in 2004-05 (*i.e.* upto February, 2005) were Rs. 257 crore. Therefore, there is no decline in the gross collections.

At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to increase the deposit ceiling under PPF from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.

Guidelines of new pension schemes

3240. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed guidelines and modalities of the new pension scheme;

(b) whether it is a fact that employees on *ad hoc/* leave vacancies who have been regularized after 2004 get pay benefits from previous date of their appointment whereas they are denied other benefits available to regular employees from that date;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the criteria followed for such employees in the matter of choice of pension schemes; and

(e) the steps taken to remove the anomalies in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Functions of PFRDA

3241. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority was proposed to be set up last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the constitution, terms of reference, functions and jurisdiction of PFRDA and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 2005 seeks to provide for the establishment of a statutory authority called the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to promote old age income security by establishing, developing and regulating pension funds, to protect the interests of subscribers to schemes of pension funds and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. PFRDA would consist of a Chairperson and not more than five members, of whom at least three shall be whole-time members, to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst persons of ability, integrity and standing and having experience and knowledge in economics, finance, law or administrative matters with at least one person from each discipline. The Bill has been examined by the Standing Committee on Finance. Amendments to the Bill, based on the recommendations of the Committee are under the Government's consideration.

Rationalisation of stamp duty

3242. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to rationalize stamp duty to make it uniform;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Under the Constitution of India, Stamp Duties (but not including rates of stamp duty) fall under Entry 44 of the Concurrent List. Regarding rates of stamp duty, the Central Government has powers to fix the rates in respect of 10 instruments